

The Southeast News

VOLUME X, NUMBER 6

APRIL 1962



PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Birmingham, Alabama

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION ISSUE

Tenth Annual Meeting

APRIL 28-29, 1962



HON. DONALD W. WEBBER

United Church Moderator

Honorable Donald W. Webber, Auburn, Maine, Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine and the first Moderator of the United Church of Christ, is the keynote speaker for the 10th annual sessions of the Southeast Convention.

Judge Webber will address the convention at the Saturday morning sessions and will also be the featured speaker for the Churchmen's Fellowship Banquet on Saturday night.

Judge Webber was elected moderator of the United Church during the Third General Synod held at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 3-7, 1961. Through the Third General Synod, co-moderators presided over the sessions. He was also elected a director of the Board for Homeland Ministries.

The new moderator is a deacon of the High Street Congregational Church in Auburn and also teaches a class of more than 50 high school students. He is a trustee of the Maine CC Conference.

A native of Auburn, Me., Judge Webber practiced law there from 1931 to 1948, with time out for service as an officer in the United States Navy during World War II. He was a Justice of the Superior Court of Maine from 1948 to 1953, when he became a member of the Supreme Judicial Court. A graduate of Bowdoin College in 1927, he received his law degree from Harvard in 1931.

Report Of The Moderator

When Allen G. Saunders, who had been elected moderator of the Southeast Convention last April, moved to Indiana in June, I succeeded to the office nearly a year earlier than I had expected. On the basis of my experience I would say it is an excellent provision in our constitution that requires the moderator normally to serve a year as moderator-elect.

It has, however, been a very enjoyable year for me. I have been especially glad to represent the convention at important occasions in the lives of some of our congregations: the dedication of new church buildings at Corbin, Kentucky, and Crossville, Tennessee, and the 75th anniversary celebrations at Robbins and Deer Lodge Tennessee.

We are now moving into an important period in our life together: realignment within the United Church of Christ. For many of us, the union has been talk about something far off somewhere; now it comes home to us. We are about to have an opportunity to demonstrate in action the depth of our belief in Christian unity.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn P. Welch

Extend Your Horizons

Now is the best time to resolve to extend your horizons by subscribing to THE SOUTHEAST NEWS and the UNITED CHURCH HERALD.

During the sessions of the annual meeting the subscription rate for both the News and the Herald are reduced to \$1 and \$2 respectively — a special price of \$3 for annual subscriptions to both.

Mrs. G. F. Logan will be delighted to receive your subscription blanks. Forms for your use have been placed at your disposal.

The Southeast News is the monthly publication of the convention. It carries news and pictures of activities within the convention and throughout the whole of the fellowship.

The United Church Herald is the magazine of the United Church. It is published biweekly except monthly in July and August. In its pages readers find news of church activities around the world, articles on religious subjects of general interest, and editorials on current religious issues.

Extend your horizons! Subscribe now!



MRS. GEORGE E. KAHLENBERG

Outstanding Lay Leader

Mrs. George E. Kahlenberg, Two Rivers, Wisconsin, a member of the Council for Lay Life and Work of the United Church of Christ, will deliver the sermon at the convention service of worship on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

Elected moderator of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches at its sessions in July of 1961, she served as co-moderator of the Third General Synod of the United Church.

Mrs. Kahlenberg will also be the featured speaker at the banquet of the Women's Fellowship on Saturday night.

She has also been elected to the Board of Homeland Ministries of the United Church. Previously she had served on the budget committee of the United Church.

Mrs. Kahlenberg was a United States representative to the International Congregational Council in Edinburgh in 1953 and served on its executive committee. In 1954, she attended the Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

Persons from the area attending previous Mid-Winter and other national meetings will remember Mrs. Kahlenberg for her interesting "commercials" for the United Church Herald.

Mr. Kahlenberg is a manufacturer of marine engines. They have three daughters.

Committee On Stewardship And Missionary Education

The March issue of The Southeast News carried the list of the churches of the Southeast Convention with their contributions to Our Christian World Mission for 1960 and 1961. The total for 1960 was \$31,773 and for 1961 it was \$33,090. Thus, our support of Our Christian World Mission did increase, but not by the \$3,000 minimum increase for which we had hoped.

For the year 1962 the Stewardship and Missionary Education Committee recommended to the churches that they place themselves on the "Stairway to Progress" and seek to reach the next higher step during the year. Thus:

FIRST STEP GOAL — 10c for missions for each \$1.00 for current expenses

FORWARD GOAL — 25c for missions for each \$1.00 for current expenses

PROGRESS GOAL — 50c for missions for each \$1.00 for current expenses

CHALLENGE GOAL — 75c for missions for each \$1.00 for current expenses

IDEAL GOAL — \$1.00 for missions for each \$1.00 for current expenses

If the churches of the Southeast Convention would accept the challenge of the "Stairway to Progress" our support of Our Christian World Mission at home and abroad would be greatly increased and we no longer would need to be financially supported by the Board of Home Missions.

Therefore, your committee strongly recommends and urges that each church discover where it presently is on the stairway and seek to reach the next step by the end of this year—1962.

Through the Stewardship Council of the United Church, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia 2, Pa., educational and promotional materials relating to Our Christian World Mission are available. If your church does not have a catalog of materials available, it should write and secure one.

Many of the churches of the convention do not have a systematic approach to Christian Stewardship. Therefore, we would recommend that each church conduct a Christian Enlistment program — that is, have an "every member canvass" — to secure pledges of financial support and of service to the church. Materials for the Christian Enlistment program are available through

Report Of Committee On Christian Education

The committee has had two very profitable meetings this year as well as two sub-committee meetings. Many important things have happened. The most important, perhaps, is the arrival of the Rev. Emilie F. Pitcock as Minister of Christian Education for the Southeast Convention. Miss Pitcock is wonderful to work with, very helpful in our planning, and certainly "one of us". We are glad she is here!

The Church Vocations Conference for young people was held at Southern Union College during the Christmas holidays, December 28-29, 1961. Miss Pitcock worked with the committee appointed by the Christian Education Committee in planning (and carrying through) the program for this conference.

The Southeast Convention has been a participant in the beginning of the Christian Education Associates. 22 CEAs attended the Area Workshop at Avon Park, Florida, the first week in January. Picked from a list of leaders in the field of Christian Education as compiled by the Christian Education Committee, these persons were contacted by the chairman. They are now continuing to meet in smaller groups in three areas at present. The CEAs are involved in some deep study which will soon be seen through their service in their local church and in neighboring churches. This is a great challenge to all of us involved in this program. We appreciate the effort made by many to see that we had this opportunity to begin learning together at Avon Park. I wish to express our thanks to the conferences and associations who helped financially. We are glad that your giving to Our Christian World Mission made it possible for the

the Stewardship Council.

If we would but take advantage of the guidance and materials available to us, there are a variety of ways in which we can educate ourselves and our fellow church members in the work and mission of the church. Let us resolve during this year to learn more of the work of the various boards, councils and agencies of our churches in their missionary outreach at home and overseas.

1961 was a year of minimum progress. Let us make 1962 a year of great progress!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. A. Ray Meserve, Chm.

CEAs to attend the conference and to continue to receive training. You will be hearing more from us in the future. The Fellowship of CEAs will continue to expand as other leaders are helped to grow by those who are now CEAs.

Much work has gone into the planning of the summer camp program for the Southeast Convention. The committee has been helped in this by the past deans as we met to evaluate the past and recommend for the future. This summer there will be four summer camps — two for junior highs; two for senior highs. The convention-wide camps will be as follows: Junior High at Camp Ozone, Tennessee, July 29-August 4; Junior High at Roosevelt State Park, Georgia, July 15-21; Senior High at Camp Ozone, June 10-16; Senior High at Roosevelt State Park, July 15-21.

A Camp Committee of three members has met twice to do further planning about materials, staff, training, and other important matters. This committee will coordinate the camping program of the Southeast Convention. They are now working with the deans in planning for the camps this summer. As many as twelve from the camp staff of the convention may attend national training sessions. Several will attend the two sessions; one at Pilgrim Hills, Ohio, and the other in the Pittsburgh Synod in Pennsylvania. Training for all staff members of all camps is being planned for sometime in May by the Camp Committee and the deans. It is hoped that young people will attend the camp of their choice, that our camping program will grow through the years as we pool our resources, staff and training, and that this will be a most meaningful part of the Christian Education program of the convention.

Miss Pitcock is working with the young people of the convention. The committee hopes to help this part of our program to grow as she gives us direction. The young people are very capable and have our wholehearted support in their activities.

We look forward to further strides next year as the committee and our Minister of Christian Education contribute toward the growth of the Christian Education program in the Southeast Convention.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley N. Berry
(Mrs. W. R.)
Chairman

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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STAFF

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Mrs. Jettie Logan Promotion

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Superintendent's Corner

The observation frequently is made that church statistics are not particularly reliable. If the observation is correct, it is not so much a commentary on the integrity of church officials as a judgment upon the failure of too many churches to report. The result is a certain amount of sheer guesswork in compiling the statistics for the year.

On the basis of the reports received in the convention office and a certain amount of restrained guesswork on our part, the following figures are presented for your information.

	1961	1960
Churches	116	114
Members	9490	9529
Sunday Schools	102	97
Members	6275	6135
Y. P. Org.	45	46
Members	993	912

(The figures given for Sunday Schools and Young People's Organizations are not too reliable.)

OCWM	33,090	31,773
CHEF	5,398	4,543
OCWM & CHEF	38,488	36,316

(Both the OCWM figure and the OC WM plus CHEF figure represent new "highs" for the convention.)

The figure for "Home Expenses" dropped from \$414,838 to \$396,111. This probably reflects more accurate reporting of regular operating expenses rather than a curtailment in home expenses.

The value of church property increased from \$3,754,000 to \$3,887,000. In addition, 38 parsonages are reported—an increase of two over last year.

These figures represent strength and growth — and a challenge for 1962!

Southeast Convention Financial Statement

January 1 - December 31, 1961

RECEIPTS

Budgeted Receipts		
Board of Home Missions Subsidy	\$10,740.32	
Miscellaneous	2,664.62	\$13,404.94
Our Christian World Mission Receipts		
Central Alabama Association	\$ 645.74	
East Alabama Association	7,511.44	
North Alabama Association	2,159.32	
S. Alabama-N. W. Florida Association	1,198.80	
Georgia-South Carolina Conference	10,275.97	
Kentucky-Tennessee Conference	7,933.83	
Other	1,230.19	\$30,955.29
Total Budgeted Receipts		\$44,360.23

Unbudgeted Receipts

Board of Home Missions (Church Aid, etc.)	\$22,395.95	
For Christian Higher Education Fund	4,798.90	
For Southern Union College	1,864.70	
Per Capita Dues for General Council	2,227.88	
Miscellaneous	8,331.04	
Total Unbudgeted Receipts		\$39,618.47
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$83,978.70

DISBURSEMENTS

Budgeted Disbursements		
Salaries and Annuities	\$13,710.13	
Office (Rent, Equipment, Etc.)	1,183.52	
Supplies and Materials	1,570.70	
The Southeast News	1,266.50	
Organization (Board, Committees, Etc.)	1,311.71	
Travel (Supt., Min. Chr. Ed., Special)	5,388.97	
Parsonage (Note, Ins., Maintenance)	1,442.77	
Miscellaneous	1,960.94	
Church Aid	7,172.77	
National Boards and Agencies	8,902.61	
Total Budgeted Disbursements		\$43,910.62

Unbudgeted Disbursements

To Churches, etc., from Board Home Missions	\$21,861.62	
Christian Higher Education Fund (Nat'l.)	4,798.90	
Southern Union College	1,864.70	
General Council (Per Capita Dues)	2,227.88	
Miscellaneous	9,742.19	
Total Unbudgeted Disbursements		\$40,495.29
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$84,405.91

RECAPITULATION

Total Receipts 1961	\$83,978.70
Total Disbursements 1961	84,405.91
	— 427.21

Beginning Balance 1961

Restricted	\$2,160.51	
Regular	6,991.30	9,151.81
Balance December 31, 1961		
Restricted	\$1,290.80	8,724.60
Regular	7,433.80	
	\$8,724.60	

Respectfully submitted,
W. J. Strickland
Treasurer

TENTH ANNUAL MEETING

Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, Inc.

(An Acting Conference of the United Church of Christ)

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Birmingham, Alabama

April 28-29, 1962

Theme: "The Church — A Learning and Witnessing Community"

Hymn: "Eternal God, Whose Power Upholds"

PROGRAM

Saturday, April 28 (Central Standard Time)

- 10:30 A. M. Call to Order: Rev. Carolyn P. Welch, Moderator
The Morning Devotions: Rev. George W. Stowe, Minister,
Congregational Christian Church, Langdale, Alabama
- 10:45 A. M. Welcome: Rev. Clarence W. Baldwin, Host Pastor
Response: Rev. Carolyn P. Welch
Adoption of Program
Recognition of Visitors and Fraternal Delegates
Presentation of the Minutes of the 1961 Annual Meeting:
Mrs. A. D. Harry, Secretary
The Report of the Treasurer: Mr. W. J. Strickland
The Appointment of Committees:
Business Committee
Resolutions Committee
Remarks by the Moderator: Rev. Carolyn P. Welch
Committee Reports:
The Committee on Christian Education: Mrs. W. Raymond Berry
The Committee on Evangelism: Rev. J. Kermit Harris
The Committee on Ministry and Churches: Rev. Olin E. Sheppard
The Committee on Christian Social Action: Rev. Clyde C. Flannery
The Committee on Stewardship and Missionary Education: Rev. A.
Ray Meserve
The Committee on Survey and Church Aid: Rev. Harold C. Henderson
- Hymn
- 11:45 A. M. The Keynote Address: The Honorable Donald W. Webber,
Moderator of the United United Church of Christ
- 12:30 P. M. Recess for Lunch

Afternoon

- 1:30 P. M. Call to Order: Rev. Carolyn P. Welch, Moderator
The Afternoon Devotions: Rev. George C. Hewson, Minister,
St. John's United Church of Christ, Birmingham, Alabama
- 1:45 P. M. The Report of the Joint Committee on Reorganization and Realignment
for a United Church Conference: Rev. W. Raymond Berry
The Report of the Superintendent: Rev. James H. Lightbourne Jr.
The Report of the Minister of Christian Education: Rev. Emilie F. Pitcock
The Report of The Southern Union College: Dr. Walter A. Graham
The Report of the Nominating Committee: Rev. W. A. Blankenhorn
- 3:30 P. M. WORKSHOPS:
Christian Social Action Rev. Clyde C. Flannery
Christian Education Mrs. W. Raymond Berry
Evangelism Rev. J. Kermit Harris
Stewardship and Missionary Education Rev. A. Ray Meserve
- 5:00 P. M. Recess for Dinner
- 7:00 P. M. The Women's Fellowship Banquet: Miss Dora C. Brackin, President
The Churchmen's Fellowship Banquet: Mr. Odell Yancey, President

SUNDAY, April 29

- 9:00 A. M. Call to Order: Rev. Carolyn P. Welch
The Morning Devotions: Rev. Frederick A. Meyer, Minister
Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Georgia
- 9:15 A. M. The Annual Meeting of The Church Builder's Club: Mr. Rufus G.
Obrecht, President
- 9:45 A. M. The Report of the Women's Fellowship: Miss Dora C. Brackin
The Report of the Churchmen's Fellowship: Mr. Odell Yancey
The Report of the PF/YF: Mr. Boyd W. James, President
- 10:00 A. M. The Congregational Christian Foundation at Vanderbilt Divinity School:
Rev. Arnold Slater
The United Church Herald and The Southeast News
- 10:15 The Election of Officers
Other Business
The Report of the Resolutions Committee
Memorial Silence
Final Adjournment Following the Morning Service
- 11:00 A. M. Service of Worship conducted by Rev. Clarence W. Baldwin
Sermon: Mrs. George E. Kahlenberg
Communion Service and Installation of Officers
- 12:30 P. M. Lunch

Report Of The Committee Christian Social Action

The Committee on Christian Social Action met at Pilgrim Congregational Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, on March 30th. It concerned itself with the statements adopted by the Council for Christian Social Action and referred to the churches and bodies of the United Church for discussion and consideration.

Copies of these statements are in the hands of each of the delegates. You will note that the statements are on:

- (1) Minimum Wage Protection
- (2) Tax Exemptions for Churches
- (3) Capital Punishment
- (4) A Department of Urban Affairs and Housing

The committee urges the churches of the convention to study these statements and take appropriate action in the areas in which they are concerned.

The chairman of the committee mailed a letter on March 12th to all the ministers in the convention calling attention to the need for church people to support the administration's bill on tariffs.

There will not be a Social Action Institute in the southern area this summer. Rather, members of our congregations in the Southeast are urged to attend the Race Relations Institute at Fisk University, June 25-July 7, 1962. The cost for room, board and tuition is \$80.00. However, scholarships are available for those who wish to attend. Persons interested are urged to contact Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, Rev. Edward M. Brown, or the convention office.

The committee further:

1. Recommends that each church have a Christian Social Action Committee.
2. Urges the churches to make use of the various program and study materials available through the Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, New York.
3. Affirms that as Christians we are unalterably opposed to Communism. We believe our opposition to Communism should be Christian and intelligent. To this end we commend to the churches the booklet, "How to Combat Communism", issued by the Council for Christian Social Action.
4. Calls upon the churches to become alert to the opportunities for service at the local and state level in the areas of concern for mentally retarded child-

Report Of The Evangelism Committee

What of the age old cry of various church groups that there be a great "revival" of Christianity through evangelism? If I understand the essence of this "cry" it has not been satisfied. Could it be that the anticipants have spent their efforts in the wrong quarter? Rather than looking beyond the confines of the local church toward the "depraved sinner", perhaps we should re-evaluate the words "revival" and "evangelism" and begin to expend our energies within the local church.

Does the "revival week" of supercharged and frenzied activity actually confront men in a decisive way with the Gospel in Jesus Christ? Is not the church as a witnessing community the more effective instrumentality?

Someone has wisely said that ultimately Christ alone is the evangelist, not men! When we come to understand fully the meaning of this statement, when the church begins to fulfill its ministry of witness in such a way as to show forth the "drama of salvation" as it is known in the person of Christ—then do we engage in a program of true evangelism.

Dr. Gerald J. Jud, Office of Evangelism, United Church of Christ, was in our area last December. The ministers of our area are indebted to Dr. Jud for the insights that he brought to Talladega College.

The Committee on Evangelism recommends the following:

1. That each minister read and make good use of The Evangelism Advocate.
2. That each church give special attention to the United Church's Mission on Renewal and Evangelism—"MORE" Program. This program is a "movement based on great convictions about the working of the Spirit of God in the spirit of man and in the Church of Christ—centering on creative power of dialogue (communication) between pastor and people and wrestling with five concerns." The "MORE" Program sets forth these convictions and concerns and suggests an approach for "A Year of Evangelism." This program is well worth your most serious consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Kermit Harris, Chairman

ren and our senior citizens.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Clyde C. Flannery,
Chairman

Report Of Committee On Ministry And Churches

During the past year the ministers and churches of the Southeast Convention have had the opportunity to take action to become a part of the United Church.

Of the 116 churches in the Southeast Convention, 72 have voted to become a part of the United Church. 27 of the churches have not taken action or, if action has been taken, have not reported it. 17 of the churches voted against the constitution of the United Church.

We commend the 72 churches that have voted to be affiliated with the United Church and we urge the remaining 44 churches to take similar action. In the meantime we would urge these 44 churches to maintain their ties to their present associations or conferences and to the Southeast Convention.

There are 108 ordained ministers having standing in the associations and conferences of the convention or in the convention itself. 99 of these have requested standing in the United Church and it has been granted.

Of the 55 active pastors in the convention, 52 hold standing in the United Church.

As was previously indicated, there are 108 ordained ministers in the convention. 55 serve as pastors, 18 are retired, 8 serve within the denomination in other than a pastoral capacity, 6 are educators, 3 are in non-denominational religious work, 14 are in business or another profession, 4 are variously occupied.

During the year 1961 the first United Church Minister's Conference was held at Talladega College. Ministers from the South Indiana Synod, the Convention of the South and the Southeast Convention attended. A similar conference is planned for next November 26-28.

The regular Spring Minister's Convocation for the Southeast Convention will be held May 16-18 at The Southern Union College. Rev. Melvin R. Fennner, Chaplain at the college, will be the guest leader. The ministers are urged to plan now to attend. An excellent program has been planned for the occasion.

Respectfully submitted,
Olin E. Sheppard, Chairman

**SUBSCRIBE TO
THE SOUTHEAST NEWS**

Report Of Committee Survey And Church Aid

This committee feels that we have had a good year in the Southeast Convention with two important new churches moving ahead. The Huntsville Church, under the leadership of Rev. and Mrs. W. Raymond Berry, has made great strides during the past year and will soon have its permanent location. Although this church was really established in 1960, yet most of the organizational work has been done during the past year.

In Montgomery great progress has also been made in establishing a United Church there. Montgomery has been approved as a high potential area by our National Boards, and aid will be forthcoming to help the church establish its full program. At the present time plans are under way to select a full-time minister for this project.

At last year's convention meeting it was reported that we would soon have reason to call upon the Church Builder's Club to help in the establishment of some new church projects. We now have the new church projects and we are looking to the Church Builder's Club to rally to the support of the new church projects in the Southeast Convention.

We hope that in the year to come that more church projects will open for us in the Southeast. Now is the time to meet the challenge of the growing South as a fellowship of free churches.

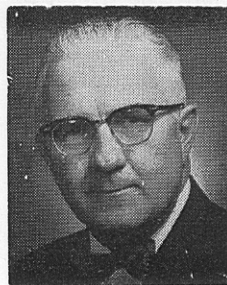
Respectfully submitted,
Harold C. Henderson,
Chairman



MISS DORA C. BRACKIN
President, Women's Fellowship

Report On The Southern Union College

A little research recently into some of the minutes of the General Convention of Christian Churches in the South



and also the records of the early meetings of the Board of Trustees of Bethlehem College and later Piedmont Junior College were both very revealing and comforting.

The revealing part came through a knowledge of the sacrifice of the people that wanted to, and did, start a college in our part of the country for people who more than likely would never go to any other college. From the very beginning, a high percentage of the graduates (recently it was 80%) went on to finish their college work in a senior college.

The comforting part came in the statement that from the very beginning of the little Wadley college there have never been sufficient funds to either run the college or pay faculty and staff the salaries they so richly deserve. There has been sacrifice on the part of all people connected with the college since its founding.

Now we are entering the 40th year of the existence of the college. What can we report? Without in any sense of the word attempting to brag, because we have so little to brag about, it is true that we have more and better buildings than ever before; there are more faculty and staff than ever before, and they are paid higher salaries than ever before. There is an excellent enrollment of some very fine students.

The total net worth of the college is in excess of \$450,000 and the total indebtedness is approximately \$75,000. There are over \$110,000 worth of unpaid pledges to the 10-year improvement program and most of the pledges are up to date. The long term look of the college appears to be good and it is only the day-to-day operations that tend to cause some anguish. This is true of most colleges today, including a good many state-owned universities, both large and small.

The Science Addition to Elder Hall, made possible by the National Churchmen's Brotherhood of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, has been completed and is being used 100%. The total cost of the new building and new equipment was less than the original

estimate of the contractor, Mr. C. J. Ford. These facilities are equal to any school in the South, certainly in Alabama, of comparable size.

There is every reason to believe that the new library will be started during the month of April. \$15,000 of the \$50,000 pledge of the National Women's Fellowship of the Congregational Christian Churches has been paid and the balance will be done on or about June 1, 1962. The West Point Manufacturing Company pledged \$9,000 to cover the cost of new furnishings, \$6,000 of which has already been paid.

Southern Union has room for more students, both boarding and commuting, especially young ladies. People who have seen Pilgrim Hall and the 8-room addition have been unanimous in saying that no college, junior or senior, can boast of more attractive quarters for young women. Applications will be greatly appreciated.

The final word, of course, is "THANKS", not only to all of the churches, ministers, and people of the Southeast Convention, but throughout the USA, who have been so generous in their prayers for, and contributions to, Southern Union College.

Thanks, and come to see us!

Walter A. Graham, President

EXTEND YOUR HORIZONS READ YOUR CHURCH MAGAZINES



ODELL YANCEY
President, Churchmen's Fellowship

Report Of The

Women's Fellowship

"Creating and Renewing the Church", our program theme for the year, is a phrase from the Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ. As we have meditated on this theme we have realized anew that the true church is created and renewed in the same measure as we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

A new adventure that we have supported is the Southern Regional Leadership Workshop at Bricks, N. C. Both the 1961 and 1962 meetings have convened since the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Convention last April. This is a workshop for the state and association leaders, or similar groupings, where they receive training and inspiration under the leadership of our National Women Leaders. In 1961 representatives of the Southeast Convention, the Southern Convention, the Convention of the South, the Florida Conference, three fraternal delegates of the Evangelical and Reformed Women's Guild trained under Congregational Christian leadership. In 1962, the Women's Guild and the Women's Fellowship National Leaders planned and furnished leadership jointly. All worked together in perfect harmony, and it was a most stimulating and spiritual experience for all who attended. There were 87 in attendance at the Bricks workshop in 1961, and 63 in 1962. This year there were 43 CC's and 20 E. & R.'s.

Another new project of our Women's Fellowship is the giving of Honorary and Memorial memberships to secure funds for Convention-wide projects.

It was the happy privilege of your president to attend the National President's Meeting in Chicago where state presidents of C C and E & R met together to study plans for the incoming year under United Church leadership. Following our one-day session, along with delegates of the Churchman's Brotherhood, we attended and participated in a three-day session called by the Council for Lay Life and Work.

The eight Spring Rallies in various areas of our convention reach most of our local church fellowships with an interesting program, highlighted with inspiration from a missionary speaker.

The three State Retreats reach a smaller number of our people and churches, but here greater depths in

Report Of The Churchmen's Fellowship

Many things are happening to our Churchmen's Fellowship in this year 1962 that seems to me are most significant. I believe that at long last our men are becoming aware that they have an important role in the life of the church. They are accepting this challenge with great courage and fortitude.

Your president had the very happy experience on February 23, 24, and 25 of this year of attending a national meeting in Chicago, along with some 200 key lay leaders, both men and women, from the C C and E & R churches. This meeting was called at the request of the Council for Lay Life and Work. We were not briefed as to the nature of the meeting or the purpose before we arrived in Chicago. After two days there, and I can assure you they were very busy days of lectures and buzz sessions, I am not sure but what some of us were still confused.

In our buzz sessions we were asked such questions pertaining to the Council for Lay Life and Work as: What should be the structure? What should be the functions? What kind of program? Out of these buzz sessions came many ideas and suggestions. They will be analyzed and formulated and will be made available to us some time before next fall. Then in November and December of 1962, it is planned to have about 23 meetings all over the country to acquaint the laity with the proposed purpose of the Council for Lay Life and Work.

Our union with the E & R Churchmen's Brotherhood will become official next August 17-19 at Purdue University. It is my hope that many of our men from the Southeast Convention will begin now to make plans to attend this meeting. The total cost of this meeting, including registration, is only \$25.00. The leaders are outstanding. They are: (1) Dr. Robert W. Spike, General Secretary for Programs, Board of Homeland Ministries and former minister of

worship and discussion are found.

Twenty-two days have been spent attending and participating in fourteen meetings by your president.

Through a great deal of correspondence the organizational work has become closer knit, and we are becoming aware of needs which we are challenged to fill.

Respectfully submitted,
Dora C. Brackin, President
Women's Fellowship, SEC

Judson Memorial Church, New York, N. Y., who will be the Saturday morning speaker. His topic will be "The Kind of World in Which Laymen Are Called To Work." (2) Mr. Irwin Miller, noted churchman and industrialist of Columbus, Indiana, and president of the National Council of Churches of Christ in America, will be the speaker for the first session on Friday night. Mr. Miller's topic, "The Layman's Calling." (3) Rev. Dr. Douglas Horton, former Secretary and Minister of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches, former Dean of the Divinity School at Harvard University, and presently sponsor of a Lay School at Randolph, New Hampshire, will be the speaker at the Sunday worship service.

Your president attended a meeting at Elon College last June. It was composed of representatives from the E & R Brotherhood and our C C men and women of the Convention of the South, under the leadership of William E. Peterson and Dr. J. Earl Danieleley. The purpose was to try to acquaint the various groups with each other's activities and to try to make them congenial for the new Churchmen's Fellowship.

Approximately 20 men attended the 1961 retreat held at Southern Union College. We had outstanding leadership, which included Dr. Robert V. Moss Jr., president of Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.; Mr. William E. Peterson, National Director of the Laymen's Fellowship of the Congregational Christian Churches, St. Louis, Mo.; Dr. James H. Lightbourne Jr., superintendent of the Southeast Convention, and Dr. Walter A. Graham, president of Southern Union College.

Several men's organizations were formed during the year. Several of our churches observed Laymen's Sunday with laymen in charge of the services.

Your president feels that because of a very busy schedule for the men of our fellowship this spring it would be wise not to try to hold your annual retreat until late summer. More information concerning this will be available at the Birmingham meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Odell Yancey, President

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